

This Advent, light the Advent candles at home. You need 5 candles: 1 white and 1 pink and 3 purple or blue (or 4 purple, 4 blue, 4 red, or whatever you have). Say the liturgies below each Sunday. They are designed for 2 readers but can be used by 1 or more. You can light the candles at dinner time all week, too, the right number for the week of Advent. Light them all during the 12 days of Christmas. They make a nice centerpiece. Have a blessed Advent.

First Sunday in Advent: Hope

One: Long ago, God spoke to the people of Israel through the prophet Jeremiah.

Two: Jeremiah told us to hope for a descendent of David who would bring justice and righteousness in the land.

One: We, too, long for a world of perfect justice.

Two: We, too, wait for God's righteousness.

One: We light this candle of hope, waiting with all creation for God's promise to be born among us.

(Light one purple or blue candle)

All: O God of hope, we know there is much wrong with the world. We know how far it is from what you intended. Come to us again. Be born among us, that all the world may be made new. Fill us with your hope. Amen.

Second Sunday in Advent: Peace

One: Long ago, God spoke to the people through the prophet Malachi. Malachi told them to prepare for God to come and transform everything.

Two: God also sent John the Baptist to prepare the way.

One: We, too, long for peace.

Two: We, too, wait for God's transformation.

One: We light this candle of peace waiting for the Prince of peace to be born among us.

(Light 2 purple or blue candles)

All: God of peace, teach us your way of peace, so that all wars will cease, arguments end, and hatred and fear give way to compassion and hope. Help us to prepare the way, as we wait for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

One: Long ago God spoke to the people of Israel through the prophet Zephaniah, who taught us to rejoice at God's salvation.

Two: God's salvation is here, he said, when the oppressors are gone, and the lame and the outcast can rejoice without shame.

One: We remember Jesus who welcomed the outcasts.

Two: We remember Jesus who made the lame walk.

One: We light this candle of joy, rejoicing in the salvation we have already received and waiting for God's coming to make it complete.

(Light 2 purple or blue candles and one pink candle)

All: O God of joy, help us to delight in your vision for the world. Help us to be a community where the lame dance, and even those who are outcast everywhere else break bread with us and share your joy.

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

One: Long ago God spoke to the people of Israel through the prophet Micah.

Two: Micah promised them a ruler from the tiny town of Bethlehem to love the people the way a shepherd loves the sheep.

One: Mary's baby was born in Bethlehem, and she sang of God's love.

Two: It is a love that puts down the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly.

Advent Candle Liturgy

One: It is a love that fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty.

Two: we light this candle of love celebrating the love that came out of Bethlehem, the love that changes everything.

(Light all 3 purple or blue candles and the pink one)

All: O God of love, from a stable in a tiny town you taught us the meaning of love. Help us to rejoice with Mary at how your love changes everything. Amen.

Christmas

One: We have waited with hope for God to bring justice and righteousness.

Two: We have waited with peace for God's peace to be felt.

One: We have waited with joy, celebrating the things God has already done.

Two: We have waited with love, awed by how God has shown love to us.

One: Today we light this candle to celebrate the light God has sent into the world in the birth of Jesus.

(Light all the candles, the white one last)

All: O God of hope, and peace, and joy, and love, from that stable so long ago your light shines out into every corner of the world. Help us to sing with the angels of the joy of your coming. Help us to live by your light not only today, but throughout the whole year, so that tidings of peace and goodwill to all will truly transform everything. Amen.



Advent 2020

Taken from a resource prepared by The Whole People of God